

Serial No.: 09/455,102

- 91  
85. (New) The process of claim 84, wherein the polymer is polyacrylic acid.
- 92  
86. (New) The process of claim 82, wherein the organic acid is a polymer containing sulphonic acid groups.
- 89  
93  
87. (New) The process of claim 82, wherein the aqueous polysilicate microgel prepared by the process is anionic.
- 88  
94  
88. (New) The process of claim 82, wherein the silica-based material is an acidified alkali metal silicate and the organic acid is an organic polyacid.
- 82  
95  
89. (New) The process of claim 88, wherein the organic polyacid is added to the aqueous solution of sodium silicate, and the sodium silicate solution containing the organic polyacid is combined with the acidified alkali metal silicate.
- Sub. 90. (New) Aqueous polysilicate microgel obtained by mixing (i) an aqueous solution of alkali metal silicate with (ii) an aqueous phase of silica-based material having a pH of 11 or less and (iii) an organic acid.
- 97  
98  
91. (New) The aqueous polysilicate microgel of claim 90, wherein the organic acid is an organic polyacid.
- 97  
99  
92. (New) The aqueous polysilicate microgel of claim 90, wherein the organic acid is a polymer containing carboxylic acid groups.
- 99  
100  
93. (New) The aqueous polysilicate microgel of claim 92, wherein the polymer is polyacrylic acid.
- 97  
101  
94. (New) The aqueous polysilicate microgel of claim 90, wherein the organic acid is a polymer containing sulphonic acid groups.
- 97  
102  
95. (New) The aqueous polysilicate microgel of claim 90, wherein the aqueous polysilicate microgel is anionic.
- 97  
103  
96. (New) The aqueous polysilicate microgel of claim 90, wherein the silica-based material is an acidified alkali metal silicate and the organic acid is an organic polyacid.
- 103  
104  
97. (New) The aqueous polysilicate microgel of claim 96, wherein the organic polyacid is added to the aqueous solution of sodium silicate, and the sodium silicate solution containing the organic polyacid is combined with the acidified alkali metal silicate. - -